



WAGE RATES INDEXES, AUGUST 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics —

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MAIN FEATURE

- In August 1977 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate for adult males increased by \$2.74 (1.9 per cent) and that for adult females by \$2.65 (2.0 per cent).
- Indexation decisions affecting Federal and State awards accounted for almost all of these increases.
- In the year ended August 1977 the adult male wage rate index rose by 10.7 per cent, 94 per cent of the rise being attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figures were 11.1 per cent and 96 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Catalogue No. 6312.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in

particular industries. The indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of —	Adult males						Adult females					
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates			Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)
1976 —												
August	132.38	16.9	468.7	330.44	467.0	122.99	17.4	617.8	310.03	618.0		
September	132.41	12.5	468.9	330.53	467.2	122.99	13.5	617.8	310.04	618.0		
October	132.41	12.5	468.8	330.52	467.2	123.01	13.5	617.9	310.09	618.1		
November	135.23	14.8	478.8	337.55	477.1	125.74	16.0	631.6	316.95	631.8		
December	135.25	14.7	478.9	337.61	477.2	125.74	15.8	631.6	316.97	631.8		
1977 —												
January	135.30	14.6	479.1	337.72	477.3	125.78	15.8	631.8	317.07	632.0		
February	135.57	7.8	480.0	338.40	478.3	126.00	8.8	632.9	317.61	633.1		
March	141.04	12.1	499.4	352.14	497.7	131.50	13.5	660.5	331.48	660.7		
April	141.20	12.2	500.0	352.55	498.3	131.52	13.0	660.6	331.54	660.8		
May	143.83	11.0	509.3	359.12	507.6	133.99	11.8	673.0	337.75	673.2		
June	143.83	10.9	509.3	359.13	507.6	133.99	11.3	673.0	337.75	673.2		
July	143.84	10.8	509.3	359.15	507.6	134.00	11.3	673.1	337.79	673.3		
August	146.58	10.7	519.0	365.98	517.3	136.65	11.1	686.4	344.47	686.6		

(a) See explanatory notes above. (b) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 AUGUST 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Mining and quarrying (b)	202.98	142.01	183.93	137.96	145.73	157.53	183.01	11.2	648.0
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	134.44	140.08	146.36	138.24	140.03	138.58	137.86	11.1	488.1
Textiles, clothing and footwear	134.51	135.34	137.69	134.14	138.41	130.78	135.09	11.1	478.3
Food, drink and tobacco	142.76	143.67	146.66	138.28	146.74	141.77	143.64	11.3	508.6
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	141.21	133.92	145.60	133.64	140.12	133.16	139.32	11.1	493.3
Paper, printing, etc.	142.76	150.87	159.80	148.75	154.48	143.11	147.96	10.6	523.9
Other manufacturing	141.31	141.16	142.48	140.16	139.16	134.83	140.99	10.9	499.2
All manufacturing groups	137.65	140.45	146.24	138.64	141.35	137.99	139.73	11.1	494.8
Building and construction	161.87	160.19	149.18	155.42	148.39	146.33	156.74	9.5	555.0
Railway services	133.31	128.33	149.84	133.51	125.86	133.78	135.72	11.3	480.6
Road and air transport	149.11	140.76	140.48	140.50	144.77	143.76	144.52	10.9	511.7
Shipping and stevedoring (c)	178.67	179.11	171.36	169.59	180.65	175.85	176.43	9.9	624.7
Communication	173.39	174.37	172.99	172.16	174.05	168.96	173.40	10.2	614.0
Wholesale and retail trade	145.91	148.05	147.49	142.95	143.17	147.83	146.27	10.8	517.9
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	151.38	148.31	153.64	140.24	145.69	160.67	149.73	10.6	530.2
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	139.08	135.19	137.39	131.79	124.92	130.06	135.80	11.1	480.8
All industry groups (a)	147.49	145.22	150.53	143.38	143.93	145.27	146.58	10.7	519.0

For footnotes see Table below.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 AUGUST 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.	
							Wage rates (cents)	
Mining and quarrying (b)	567.80	355.02	485.55	344.89	381.86	402.71	493.83	
Manufacturing -								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	336.21	350.46	366.13	345.59	350.38	346.45	344.80	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	336.27	338.35	344.22	335.35	346.02	326.95	337.74	
Food, drink and tobacco	357.40	359.17	366.65	345.70	366.84	354.42	359.27	
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	353.02	334.79	364.01	334.11	350.30	332.91	348.30	
Paper, printing, etc.	356.89	377.71	399.51	371.88	393.99	357.77	370.37	
Other manufacturing	353.28	353.23	356.21	351.24	347.09	337.36	352.61	
All manufacturing groups	344.25	351.33	365.67	346.75	353.65	345.01	349.48	
Building and construction	404.68	400.47	372.96	388.54	370.98	365.83	391.85	
Railway services	333.28	321.15	374.61	333.79	314.64	334.44	339.39	
Road and air transport	372.76	351.89	351.20	351.24	361.91	359.39	361.29	
Communication	444.77	449.03	445.49	448.63	448.20	435.66	446.30	
Wholesale and retail trade	364.79	370.14	368.73	357.39	357.93	369.57	365.68	
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	385.88	380.93	388.74	357.48	368.08	407.92	381.48	
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	347.70	337.98	343.47	329.47	312.30	325.15	339.49	
All industry groups (a)	369.22	361.99	376.08	356.72	358.96	359.50	365.98	
Index numbers								
(Base : Weighted average hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100)								
Mining and quarrying (b)	802.5	501.8	686.3	487.5	539.7	569.2	698.0	
Manufacturing -								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	475.2	495.4	517.5	488.5	495.2	489.7	487.3	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	475.3	478.2	486.5	474.0	489.1	462.1	477.4	
Food, drink and tobacco	505.2	407.7	518.2	488.6	518.5	500.9	507.8	
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	499.0	473.2	514.5	472.2	495.1	470.5	492.3	
Paper, printing, etc.	504.4	533.9	564.7	525.6	556.9	505.7	523.5	
Other manufacturing	499.3	499.3	503.5	496.4	490.6	476.8	498.4	
All manufacturing groups	486.6	496.6	516.9	490.1	499.9	487.6	494.0	
Building and construction	572.0	566.0	527.2	549.2	524.4	517.1	553.8	
Railway services	471.1	453.9	529.5	471.8	444.7	472.7	479.7	
Road and air transport	526.9	497.4	496.4	496.5	511.5	508.0	510.7	
Communication	628.7	634.7	629.7	634.1	633.5	615.8	630.8	
Wholesale and retail trade	515.6	523.2	521.2	505.1	505.9	522.4	516.9	
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	545.4	538.4	549.5	505.3	520.3	576.6	539.2	
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	491.4	477.7	485.5	465.7	441.4	459.6	479.8	
All industry groups (a)	521.9	511.6	531.6	504.2	507.4	508.1	517.3	

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (c) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 AUGUST 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a)	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (b)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Manufacturing –									
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc.	131.54	138.53	133.83	132.59	135.22	133.34	134.13	11.2	673.8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	129.62	128.64	129.13	131.08	130.63	126.00	129.14	11.3	648.7
Food, drink and tobacco	135.96	135.93	137.39	133.35	123.65	131.18	135.11	11.4	678.7
Other manufacturing	133.36	135.47	136.71	132.16	132.40	128.61	134.16	10.1	673.9
<i>All manufacturing groups</i>	<i>131.66</i>	<i>132.18</i>	<i>133.04</i>	<i>132.21</i>	<i>129.97</i>	<i>128.81</i>	<i>131.90</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>662.6</i>
Transport and communication	137.97	140.07	144.49	143.13	137.11	145.58	140.15	10.8	704.0
Wholesale and retail trade	144.07	147.75	144.50	143.03	140.56	136.89	144.53	10.9	726.0
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	143.54	143.85	141.41	137.42	138.30	141.56	142.55	10.8	716.1
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	134.24	131.33	129.77	128.03	118.56	125.77	131.10	11.4	658.5
All industry groups (a)	136.61	136.84	138.41	136.53	133.98	132.90	136.65	11.1	686.4

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of –	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (a)									
1976 –									
August	133.26	131.21	136.10	129.35	129.22	131.33	133.09	131.52	132.38
September	133.29	131.25	136.10	129.38	129.34	131.33	133.13	131.55	132.41
October	133.27	131.25	136.10	129.38	129.44	131.33	133.13	131.55	132.41
November	136.01	134.09	139.12	132.19	132.29	134.14	135.98	134.33	135.23
December	136.04	134.10	139.14	132.20	132.29	134.14	135.98	134.37	135.25
1977 –									
January	136.14	134.10	139.14	132.24	132.33	134.14	135.98	134.47	135.30
February	136.13	134.10	139.14	132.24	136.26	134.14	135.98	135.06	135.57
March	141.92	139.81	144.88	137.96	138.04	139.88	141.73	140.21	141.04
April	141.99	139.85	144.91	137.96	139.72	139.93	141.75	140.54	141.20
May	144.70	142.45	147.63	140.53	141.95	142.50	144.38	143.16	143.83
June	144.69	142.45	147.63	140.62	141.96	142.50	144.38	143.17	143.83
July	144.70	142.45	147.63	140.63	141.99	142.50	144.38	143.19	143.84
August	147.49	145.22	150.53	143.38	143.93	145.27	147.19	145.84	146.58
ADULT FEMALES (a)									
1976 –									
August	123.02	123.29	124.39	122.79	119.73	119.52	116.59	128.55	122.99
September	123.02	123.29	124.39	122.79	119.76	119.52	116.59	128.55	122.99
October	123.02	123.29	124.39	122.79	120.14	119.52	116.59	128.59	123.01
November	125.72	125.98	127.49	125.48	122.60	122.15	119.14	131.46	125.74
December	125.72	125.98	127.49	125.55	122.64	122.15	119.14	131.47	125.74
1977 –									
January	125.72	125.98	127.49	125.55	123.38	122.15	119.14	131.55	125.78
February	125.72	125.98	127.50	125.55	127.46	122.15	119.14	131.94	126.00
March	131.45	131.70	133.20	131.39	128.88	127.85	124.84	137.28	131.50
April	131.45	131.70	133.20	131.39	129.25	127.85	124.84	137.32	131.52
May	133.94	134.18	135.70	133.84	131.38	130.28	127.18	139.89	133.99
June	133.94	134.18	135.70	133.86	131.38	130.28	127.18	139.90	133.99
July	133.94	134.18	135.70	133.86	131.66	130.28	127.18	139.93	134.00
August	136.61	136.84	138.41	136.53	133.98	132.90	129.72	142.68	136.65

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1.

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TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, AUGUST 1977 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 109.99	..	..	..	1.0	..	..	0.1
110.00 to 114.99	1.5	0.6	2.1	1.4	5.7	0.5	1.6
115.00 to 119.99	5.2	5.8	1.1	6.4	3.3	2.3	4.7
120.00 to 124.99	8.6	6.5	1.4	5.6	10.0	7.2	6.8
125.00 to 129.99	7.4	10.5	8.1	9.2	9.1	13.4	8.8
130.00 to 134.99	8.9	7.1	5.8	9.3	1.4	12.6	7.6
135.00 to 139.99	8.0	8.6	17.9	8.7	12.2	7.5	9.9
140.00 to 144.99	13.3	24.1	10.1	26.5	14.9	12.8	17.2
145.00 to 149.99	14.0	8.4	9.3	6.4	10.9	15.7	10.9
150.00 to 154.99	5.2	3.7	7.5	6.8	3.3	3.8	5.1
155.00 to 159.99	4.3	6.8	9.8	1.0	2.1	0.6	5.2
160.00 to 169.99	8.2	4.4	8.9	8.4	18.8	8.8	8.0
170.00 to 179.99	5.3	5.9	9.3	8.8	3.3	11.8	6.4
180.00 to 189.99	4.5	4.8	4.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	3.8
190.00 to 199.99	1.8	1.6	1.8	0.4	1.7	0.6	1.6
200.00 and over	3.9	1.2	2.4	0.7	1.9	1.5	2.4
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	147.49	145.22	150.53	143.38	143.93	145.27	146.58
Median (\$) (b)	142.40	141.30	147.32	141.40	143.00	141.90	142.40
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	..	0.3	..	0.2	..	0.4	0.1
State awards, etc.	1.3	*	2.4	2.4	1.5	0.4	1.4
All awards, etc.	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.7
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$)	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 109.99	..	..	..	0.6	..	..	*
110.00 to 114.99	1.4	1.1	1.3	2.4	6.2	1.4	1.6
115.00 to 119.99	1.7	7.3	4.5	12.6	11.5	8.2	5.3
120.00 to 124.99	10.2	6.0	4.7	0.8	5.0	7.4	7.2
125.00 to 129.99	31.2	35.6	23.2	20.4	12.7	37.8	30.2
130.00 to 134.99	4.7	3.2	4.4	5.5	6.7	10.0	4.4
135.00 to 139.99	7.0	6.4	15.0	5.6	12.1	2.8	7.7
140.00 to 144.99	4.8	14.2	15.8	34.5	24.3	6.3	12.3
145.00 to 149.99	24.4	0.8	0.8	14.9	19.1	23.6	13.1
150.00 to 154.99	13.5	10.4	27.0	0.7	0.6	..	12.0
155.00 to 159.99	0.9	13.2	2.9	1.4	0.7	1.2	5.2
160.00 and over	0.4	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.4	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	136.61	136.84	138.41	136.53	133.98	132.90	136.65
Median (\$) (b)	137.50	129.30	139.90	141.00	139.90	129.50	136.70
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	..	1.0	..	..	1.0
State awards, etc.	0.9	..	1.5	1.2	..	2.8	0.7
All awards, etc.	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	..	1.4	0.9

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for May 1977 may be found in the May issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates equal to or above the median and the other having rates equal to or below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights. * Less than 0.05 per cent. . Nil.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977*, (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8).

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician